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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE Izgrev.DECREE ANTITUBERCULOSIS MEASURES

PLAN EXTENSIVE CARE FOR TUBERCULOUS PATIENTS -- Sofia, Izgrev, 6 Jul 51

After 9 September 1944, the organization of the fight against tuberculosis changed basically and is still changing. This fight became a state problem and one of the fundamental obligations of public health officials.

To benefit from Soviet experience and basically reorganize the fight against tuberculosis to meet the high exigencies of socialist reconstruction of Bulgaria, as well as to increase the effectiveness of the program, the Council of Ministers has enacted a decree which prescribes detailed and exact measures for combating tuberculosis.

Antituberculosis Vaccination with BCG (Bacillus Calmette Guerin)

A program of compulsory antituberculosis vaccination with BCG is established for persons not infected by tuberculosis: in villages, for all newborn babies in maternity clinics and regional hospitals, increasing each year the number of persons to be vaccinated; in cities, for all newborn babies, children in nurseries, children of pre-school and school age, workers under 30 years of age in [industrial?] enterprises, university students, soldiers, persons in contact with tuberculosis carriers, and others as indicated by the dispensaries.

Assuring Antituberculosis Assistance to Children

It is required that the Ministry of Public Education and the people's soviets organize by the end of 1953 special forest-climate schools for tuberculous students in every okrug of the country. Sanatorium groups for tuberculous children will be organized at children's homes, nurseries, kindergartens, and other units which are either in existence now or are planned. At large, industrial cities sanatorium nurseries will be established. The food served in these sanatorium groups will be the same as that served in regular children's sanatoriums.

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Extending Health Resort Assistance to Workers

All workers and employees endangered by and susceptible to tuberculosis enjoy priority in admission to the rest institutions of trade unions, departments, and enterprises. The need of these persons for rest is determined by the respective antituberculosis dispensaries.

To enable a larger number of workers to improve their health and increase their resistance to tuberculosis, the rest sanatoriums will be open in the future at least 10 months of each year.

Working Conditions of Tuberculous Patients

Managers of enterprises, offices, and other establishments cannot dismiss workers and employees because of tuberculosis without first obtaining the advice of the medical consultative commission at the local health institute and a resolution of the coordinating commission at the trade union committee except in a case of disability retirement.

Workers and employees who have tuberculosis are forbidden to work in commercial establishments and plants in which harmful vapors and gases or large quantities of dust are present, or where the workers are exposed to the effects of high humidity and sharp temperature changes. On the basis of medical advice such workers must be transferred to other jobs. If, because of the transfer, the salary of an infected worker is lowered, the difference is paid by social security for a period not to exceed 2 months. This right can be claimed only once during a calendar year. Workers and employees who have contracted tuberculosis are forbidden, if the consultant commission at the antituberculosis dispensary so decides, to work overtime or on night shifts, and whenever possible they should be assigned to morning shifts only.

Patients with active tuberculosis are forbidden to work in institutions in which children are educated, brought up, trained, and treated, nor are they to work in enterprises and establishments concerned with production, preparation, storage, distribution, and sale of foodstuffs and drinks. Tuberculosis carriers are not permitted to work as dentists, barbers, conductors on streetcars and busses, train men, controllers and ticket vendors, librarians, and household servants. Such workers and employees are sent by the medical expert labor commissions to reclassification courses at the different departments. For the duration of this reclassification, but not to exceed 3 months, assistance amounting to 50 percent of the average current salary of the patient is extended from social security funds. But not more than 15,000 leva nor less than 5,000 leva per month may be granted. This benefit may be extended only once to each person.

Special cafeterias or special sections of workers' cafeterias for serving infected persons are to be established and maintained out of the directors' funds at large enterprises, mines, or groups of smaller enterprises which are situated close to each other.

Night sanatoriums, also maintained out of the directors' funds, are to be organized at the large enterprises or the groups of enterprises.

In farm workers' cooperatives the labor regime for tuberculous patients provides for temporary transfer of these patients to more suitable, less strenuous jobs. On the basis of a medical certificate, the farm workers' cooperatives furnish the infected worker with additional amounts of food for better nourishment, based on their own or their families' workdays.

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CONFIDENTIALAssuring Treatment of Patients

The following groups of tuberculous patients are to be admitted immediately by hospitals: workers and employees in children's medical prophylactic institutions, workers in public eating establishments, in food industries and trades; persons who live in dormitories and boarding houses, boarders at children's homes and students; persons who live in communal apartments under conditions which do not permit isolation of patients; persons who live in close contact with small children when it is not feasible to isolate the patient within the home; persons who display disregard for the welfare of others, thus risking the spread of infection to those around them. Tuberculosis carriers are entitled to an additional (separate) room.

Providing Personnel to Combat Tuberculosis

Serious attention is drawn to the problem of training a sufficient number of doctors and nurses for the fight against tuberculosis. Health institutions are to be assured of the necessary personnel. Measures are to be taken to improve the living and working conditions of personnel in antituberculosis institutions. Special shopping facilities are to be established at the large isolated antituberculosis institution.

Informing the Population

The Bulgarian Red Cross will organize an extensive campaign to enlighten the entire population systematically about the dangers of tuberculosis and to teach them health methods. The "Bulgarska kinematografiya" (Bulgarian Movie Industry) State Enterprise will prepare three short films on the fight against tuberculosis by the end of 1952.

NEW MEASURES TO FIGHT TUBERCULOSIS -- Sofia, Izgrev, 16 Jun 51

The fight against tuberculosis is one of the primary tasks of Bulgarian health officials. After 9 September 1944, a large network of antituberculosis dispensaries, sanatoriums, and hospitals was established. Thanks to this, as well as to the entire sanitation network and the improved welfare conditions, infection and rate of deaths due to tuberculosis have decreased considerably. One of the important requirements in the fight against tuberculosis is early diagnosis. In this connection, the Ministry of Public Health has imposed new tasks on health officials.

Regional doctors at polyclinics and health stations of industrial establishments, pediatricians at polyclinics and children's dispensaries, regional rural doctors, school doctors, and private practitioners are required to keep on separate file a special register of all patients examined by them who have complained of, or show symptoms of tuberculosis. All patients who show any signs of tuberculosis should be checked closely in the institution where they are examined.

If signs of tuberculosis are discovered, or if there is any question as to the presence of such infection, the patient is to be sent to the appropriate antituberculosis dispensary for a thorough examination.

When children are admitted to nurseries, kindergartens, and children's homes they are to be thoroughly checked for tuberculosis, and any listless, though as yet noninfected children are to be vaccinated with BCG. In nurseries, kindergartens, children's homes, and the communal homes for children and adolescents (factory, plant, school communal homes, etc.), children will be given a thorough check-up twice a year.

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Antituberculosis dispensaries are required to proceed on their own, within the shortest time possible, with the actual treatment of every newly discovered tuberculous patient. When they are in no position to admit the patient, they are required to send him to another antituberculosis dispensary in the same okrug, or, through it, to the Central Scientific Tuberculosis Research Institute.

With regard to workers whose state of health is doubtful and those who have been constantly exposed to infection, dispensaries are required to establish a program of close observation and immediate treatment, either in an appropriate hospital or at the patient's home.

Whenever a patient in need of clinical treatment must remain at home, the antituberculosis dispensary is required to make the necessary arrangements for a program of home treatments until the patient can be placed in a suitable hospital. If the patient needs economic assistance, he is supplied with food, medicines, and clothing, as well as sick-room medical supplies. If the patient has no family to take care of him, a special nurse is sent to his home.

To insure public control over the organization of the program for individual home treatment, special advisory committees should be set up at each antituberculosis institution.

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